the place who would then be able to dispose of their agricultural produce to better advantage and at the same time benefit the European Planters residing at Mundakayam and Ranni. This subject was brought forward by Mr. J. R. Vincent, Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association, at four consecutive sessions of the Assembly and, as a result, the line was surveyed, lands acquired and an estimate for the work prepared. As nothing beyond this appeared to have been done, the Member prayed for the early completion of the road.

There was an old trace starting from the 4th mile of the Kanjirapalli Manimala road and running through Chenapadi to Erumeli. It was used by the Hindu pilgrims resorting to Sabarimala and also by the inhabitants of the Cheruvalli and Chirakadavu *pakuthies* who were cultivators of the lands belonging to the Erumeli and Paschima Devaswoms. This trace had been maintained for years by the Public Works Department. Subsequently, the Cheruvalli Estate converted it into a cartable road till the opening of the approach road from the Estate to the Manimala-Ranni road, but that it had since been abandoned and left in a neglected condition. The Member, therefore, prayed that the trace might be repaired and improved simultaneously with the improvement of the Cheruvalli-Vellanadi road.

The Kanjirapalli-Tambalakad road had been in existence for about 30 years as a trace and was about 7 miles in length. It was of great use to the people as it passed through the centre of the Kanjirapalli, Tambalakad and Panamattam *karas*. Though a portion of the trace for 3 miles as far as Tampalakad was in a more or less useful condition, the remaining portion of it was not so, having been allowed to be encroached upon on either side. The early conversion of the trace into a road fit for cart traffic was prayed for.

The Ponkunnam-Cheruvalli trace was the next important work dealth with. It was 6 miles long and passed by the side of the temples at Cheruvalli and Chirakadavu through thickly-inhabited areas. It was also the approach to the markets at Ponkunnam and Manimala. Though the line for the road was traced more than 25 years ago, nothing had been done so far towards its improvement. The Member prayed that this trace might also be converted into a cart road without delay.

Regarding the Kanjirapalli-Erumeli road, the Member said that the Planters had made this trace cartable for a distance of 4 miles from Kanjirapalli to Chenapadi Estate and that the public had made a six feet trace from Erumeli to Chenapadi Estate. He prayed that the trace might be taken up, improved and maintained by Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Commissioner, Devicolam, says that the roads mentioned by you require attention, as they are important roads serving to open up that part of the country. I shall call for the necessary estimates and when I go that side you may show me one or two of the roads you wish to see opened.

90. Some needs of the Devicolam Taluk.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahmed Badrudin Rowther (Member, Devicolam Taluk) complained that the cardamom ryots who had long been cultivating cardamom and had put up costly buildings were being threatened with eviction. He then charged Government with indifference to their previous representations in the matter of means of communications in the High Range and in respect of the establishment of a cardamom tincture factory. Their main representations related to (1) means of communication, (2) cardamom crop pests, and (3) extraction of tinctures.

In regard to the first, the foot-paths in the interior of the Devicolam taluk were not in proper condition, though the revenue derived from cardamoms was not insignificant. The suggestion of the Member was that 6 feet pathways with the necessary bridges might be provided by Government. The Member invited the pointed attention of Government to the following works :—(1) Periakanal road to Kizhavipara, (2) Kizhavipara road to Bison Valley, (3) Kizhavipara road to Lockhart Estate, (4) Pachapal road to Elamudikanal, (5) a bridge in the middle of the Bodi mettu-Devicolam road on the river, and (6) a permanent stone bridge over Tottitturayar, Anakalpatti.

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For some time past cardamom plants had been subject to various diseases, causing destruction and loss of produce, and even the payment of kist had become difficult. The Member prayed that Government might devise some remedy for the protection of the cardamom plants from the pests referred to.

In regard to the extraction of tinctures, it was done in foreign countries, while the poor cultivators in Travancore had to sell their produce at a low price. As it would be a source of great profit if cardamom tincture factories could be established in the country, the Member suggested that the necessary plant might be installed by Government and the industry worked under the supervision of the Director of Industries.

Dewan's Reply.—In regard to the lands surrounding the cardamom estates on which you have put up factories and buildings, and which the Revenue Department is asking you to vacate, the Commissioner, Devicolam, says that he has made a reference to the Government as to whether registry can be made. I shall issue orders to register such lands to the cardamom ryots concerned. Then, you will not have to remove the buildings.

As regards factories for extracting cardamom oil, cardamom cultivation has itself to be established before we can think of such factories. An officer is working on the spot to eradicate the cardamom pest. You should first seek his assistance and try to eradicate the pest, and then it will be time enough to consider the question of distilling cardamoms. We shall, if necessary, ask our Industrial Chemist to conduct experiments in the preparation of cardamom tinctures. First of all you must try to get rid of the pest.

As regards the trace between the Bison Valley and Periakanal it is reported by the P. W. D. Sub-Division Officer who inspected the place that, as it is very steep with a gradient of 1 in 10 and 1 in 12, it is very difficult to make it a cartable road. It is not possible for the Government to make a road for the benefit of an Estate or two.

Member.—The place is one where three thousand acres are under cultivation and five hundred people are living.

Dewan.—The Sub-Divisional Officer considers that the number of ryots benefited is not large.

Member.—I request you to come and inspect the place personally.

Dewan.—The first essential is a big central road from Munnar to Peermade. After that is done, we can take up the smaller roads. Traces cannot be maintained for the benefit of isolated estates. If the interested people came forward and offer to improve traces and apply for some contribution, the matter will be considered. Government are now giving contribution in regard to the maintenance of some traces on the Peermade side. For the Udumbanshola-Tevaram trace, Government are spending Rs. 80 per mile for maintenance. I intend going to the Cardamom Hills in May and you may then show me these traces.

91. Removal of the toll-gate at Mundakayam from its present site.

Mr. J. R. Vincent (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that the imposition of tolls was a primitive method of raising revenue and that his association, nevertheless, did not ask for the abolition of the toll, but only wanted the toll gate being removed from its present site. Admitting that the Government had a right to raise revenue by means of tolls, the gate should not have been located where it now stood, as the revenue derived was not considerable. Further the present site was extremely inconvenient to the estates, as the people going from one estate to another had to pass the gate. Several sites to the east and west of the present one were more convenient and he suggested the removal of the gate to the 37th mile or back to the 14th mile or to the 19th or the 20th mile. If the gate was shifted to the 14th or the 19th mile, it would bring in a large revenue to Government and would, at the same time, remove the inconvenience to which the members of the estate were put at present.

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